

**Bellingham Arts Commission (BAC) Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 1, 2009, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Mayor's Board Room**

**Commission Members Present:** AnMorgan Curry, Denise Snyder, Debbie McCunn, Pearl Yewell, AnMorgan Curry, Alex Wiley

**Commission Members Absent:** Trish Harding, Shirley Erickson, Christopher Morrison

**Staff Members Present:** Shannon Taysi, PCDD, Darby Galligan, PCDD

**Others Present:** Jeni Cortrell, Big Rock Committee, Dominique Zervas, Parks Board, Chris Moench, Artist

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Arts Commission meeting was called to order by Alex Wiley, Chair

### **2. Introductions and Public Comment**

Sky Burn introduced herself. She explained she has been working on the FLOW project. The FLOW project is a non-profit corporation established to conduct research in the areas of creativity, culture, community and organizational dynamics, leadership, and sustainability, and to communicate the research findings through conversations, publications, films, and art exhibitions.

### **3. Presentations**

#### **Preliminary Approval - Prayer Wheel Sculpture – Chris Moench, Artist**

Chris Moench presented a sculpture he would like to donate to the City. The sculpture consists of an approximately 27 inch high by 12 inch in diameter vessel wrapped in relief images depicting the damage to Whatcom Creek during the pipeline fire in 1999 and the gradually recovering gorge. The vessel is cast in bronze and will be secured to a metal turntable so that it spins with a gentle push. The wheel will then be secured to a 30 inch tall concrete or stone pedestal base. Chris gave a powerpoint presentation which included installation plans, maintenance plans and location ideas. He said that the Parks Department preferred the piece be installed in the Central Business District as opposed to a location along Whatcom Creek. Parks is concerned the piece would be vandalized in a secluded spot along Whatcom Creek. Chris said the Pipeline Safety Trust has agreed to pay for the installation. There was a discussion regarding how the lid of the vessel will be secured and what the pedestal base would look like once completed. He said in regards to the base, he has outdoor artwork on San Juan Islands that has been on display on a particular pedestal type and has sustained the elements for over five years without any issues. If the artwork is approved as a donation to the City, Chris will bring final sketches of the proposed base. Darby Galligan and Shannon Taysi mentioned that if the City were to accept this donation there will be some conditions and a Deed of Gift needs to be secured prior to accepting the donation. They will work with the artist once the time comes.

Chris also mentioned he would like to donate the ceramic form of the sculpture for indoor display. This sculpture has a removable lid that allows people to put messages and wishes into the vessel. There was a brief discussion on how to archive these messages.

***Debbie McCunn moved and Denise Snyder seconded preliminary approval of the outdoor sculpture donation. Final approval is contingent upon Parks approval of a sculpture location and all contract conditions satisfied between the artist and the City. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.***

## **Preliminary / Final Approval - Form of Chain Sculpture – Jeni Cottrell, Big Rock Garden**

Jeni Cottrell presented a sculpture that is currently installed in Big Rock Garden for a temporary show. The artist wishes to donate the artwork to the City's permanent collection. The sculpture is resin over steel and weighs approximately 145 pounds. It is 80 inches tall by 10.5 inches wide by 4 inches deep. During the jurying process for the temporary show the Big Rock Committee used the criteria of safety, security, maintenance, scale, public decency, public values, craftsmanship and artistic quality. Since the artwork is already installed, Jeni said, if approved, the piece would remain in its' current spot at Big Rock Garden. Darby said since the artwork is installed and the Parks Board and Big Rock Committee are already in support of the piece, the Arts Commission can give final approval this evening if they do want to recommend it is accepted into the collection. As with the previous sculpture discussed this evening, Darby said the City will need to get maintenance information and a Deed of Gift from the artist prior to official acceptance. Alex Wiley mentioned the artwork should be given a valuation as well.

***Denise Snyder moved and AnMorgan Curry seconded the final approval of sculpture donation contingent upon all contract conditions are satisfied between the artist and the City. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.***

There was a discussion emphasizing the importance of getting detailed information from the artist regarding value, maintenance, how the artwork was constructed and the artists sign off on all paperwork.

## **4. Arts Commission Business**

### **Lipchitziana Update – Shannon Taysi**

Shannon said the powder coater, Stan Bennett, contacted her recently and said he is not able to do the work necessary to complete the sculpture maintenance. He said he will be unable to complete the work with the type of equipment he has and the amount of Bondo necessary to sculpt the piece. He said he knows someone who owns an auto body shop close to his shop. He spoke to the shop owner and the auto body shop believes they could do the work necessary. Shannon said she is going to get more details from the auto body owner and determine if they are the best organization to do the work. She will potentially have to revise the task order to accommodate a scope change and a small amount of additional funds. She will keep the Commission abreast of next steps.

### **Donations for Maintenance – Darby Galligan**

Darby learned from the City's Finance Department that the City can accept donations for sculpture maintenance. She said she will have to work with the Finance Department to establish a specific line item for donations. She would like to work with the Commissioners or a small sub-committee of the Commissioners to establish some protocol and develop a plan for encouraging donations. It was asked if the donors will get a tax benefit. Darby said yes. The next step will be to coordinate a sub-committee to create a donation strategy.

### **Pressure Washing of Artwork – Shannon Taysi**

Shannon said with the help of Public Works, she and Darby had a few sculptures pressure washed. She passed out before and after images of the work that was done. She commented that this was an effective method of cleaning the stone pieces and will be a useful technique for cleaning certain sculptures in the future.

## **Sculpture Cleaning Kits and Assignments – Shannon Taysi**

Shannon distributed cleaning kits for the Commissioners to go into the field and do some basic cleaning of sculpture. The Commissioners will work in pairs and clean a specific set of sculptures assigned to them. She asked that all the cleaning be complete by the October 6, 2009 Arts Commission meeting and each team can report on the work they completed.

### **Membership – Group**

There are still three vacancies on the Arts Commission. Marisa Papetti had interviewed for a previous vacancy and was not selected at that time but was a candidate the Commission would like to consider for future vacancies. Shannon recently confirmed Marisa is still interested in becoming a member. Shannon suggested the Commission discuss if they would like to recommend the approval of her becoming a member to the Mayor.

*Denise Snyder moved and Pearl Yewell seconded the approval of Marisa Papetti as a new member. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.*

### **5. For the Good of the Order**

Shirley Erickson said this years EDGE group will have their show on display on the night of gallery walk.

Debbie McCunn and Trish Harding are going to Tacoma in late September for a tour of the arts. Whatcom Community College will be offering this day trip, check their site to sign up.

## **BELLINGHAM ARTS COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING (S): ADJOURNED: 7:28PM**

Minutes prepared by:

  
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Shannon Taysi, PCDD Staff

Edited by:

  
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Darby Galligan, PCDD Staff